

Can We Talk?

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When Joan Rivers was doing stand-up comedy, her routine involved her asking the audience the question, “Can we talk?” She would then entertain them with her observations on life, family and relationships. It was the idea that she was sitting down and having a conversation with a close friend where she could share her more intimate and honest thoughts.

Talking is our greatest form of communication. Through a conversation, we listen to them express their thought and feelings on any given subject. In turn, we share our own ideas and gain a greater understanding of the other person. We deepen our relationship as a result of an honest and open exchange.

Today is the National Day of Prayer. It is the day Congress has set aside for American citizens to pray for the nation and our leaders. It is an opportunity to express to God our own concerns, hopes and ambitions for our country. To begin our own celebration here aboard the Base, we are beginning with a Prayer Breakfast. We will come together as a community and begin the day enjoying a time of fellowship and listen to Jon Williams, News Anchor for WFXL, talk about the role prayer has played in his own life, especially during his time as a Navy SEAL.

When we pray, we need to remember that prayer is our opportunity to engage in a serious conversation with God. We don’t simply bring Him a litany of requests like a shopping list. Instead, we open our hearts to Him as we express our concern for our leaders and our nation. We open our hearts and minds, expecting Him to show us how we can each play a part in making our world a better one in which to live.

Too many people approach prayer as simply a routine where they repeat a few lines they memorized as children. It is important to teach our children the importance of prayer and our need to rely upon God, but we need to grow in our own spiritual journey beyond repeating, “Now I lay me down to sleep...”

Instead, we should develop a comfortable intimacy with God, wherein we can approach Him and ask, “Can we talk?” While we don’t want to approach God so casually that we forget He is God, we do need to feel comfortable enough speaking with Him that we can open our hearts and minds honestly to Him. Then, we need to be willing to listen to Him to speak to us, in return. If we approach prayer in this manner, I think you will find that in the end, everyone will benefit.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.